



APPROPRIATIONS UPDATE

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET
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INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS BILL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2003 H.R. 5093

SUMMARY

The Interior Appropriations bill reported by the House Appropriations Committee (H.R. 5093) on 11 July 2002, is consistent with the House Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2003 (H.Con.Res. 353). The

legislation also complies with the requirements of the Congressional Budget Act. [Please note: Some provisions of the bill may be subject to change before floor consideration.]

COST OF THE LEGISLATION

As reported, H.R. 5093 provides \$19.73 billion in new budget authority [BA] and \$19,296 million in outlays for 2003 – an increase of \$465 million in BA and \$1.2 billion in outlays from fiscal year 2002 (assuming enactment of the House-passed supplemental appropriations bill, H.R. 4775). Spending in this appropriations bill has increased an average of 8.6 percent a year in the past 3 years. The bill contains \$44 million worth of rescissions of previously enacted budget authority.

The bill also includes \$700 million in emergency-designated BA for fiscal year 2002 – \$500 million for the Forest Service, and \$200 million for the Bureau of Land Management – to cover firefighting activities. Under the Budget Act, amounts designated as emergencies trigger automatic increases in the appropriate allocations and budget totals. The additional fiscal year 2002 BA increases fiscal year 2003 outlays by \$400 million. The President has not requested additional funds for firefighting activities.

Table 1: Interior Appropriations Bill
(fiscal years; millions of dollars)

	2002 Enacted ^a	Administration 2003 Request	302(b) for 2003	2003 Bill
Budget Authority	19,265	18,955	19,730	19,730
Outlays	18,096	19,454	19,369	19,296

^a Represents House current status to reflect Interior's share of unallocated emergency outlays.

COMPLIANCE WITH THE BUDGET RESOLUTION

The bill complies with sections 302(f) and 311(a) of the Budget Act. The first of these sections prohibits consideration of bills in excess of a subcommittee's 302(b) allocation. The second, section 311(a), prohibits

consideration of legislation exceeding the overall levels of budget authority and outlays established in the concurrent resolution on the budget. The \$19.73 billion in new discretionary budget authority is equal to the 302(b)

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This document was prepared by the majority staff of the House Committee on the Budget. It has not been approved by the full committee and may not reflect the views of all the committee's members.

allocation to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on the Interior.

As noted, this bill includes additional emergency fiscal year 2002 BA of \$700 million, which increases fiscal year 2003 outlays by \$400 million. Under the procedures set forth in

section 314 of the Budget Act, adjustments may be made for emergency-designated budget authority through fiscal year 2002 and for the outlays flowing from such budget authority in all fiscal years.

Table 2 below shows a breakdown of the bill's funding.

Table 2: Discretionary Spending in the Interior Appropriations Bill (in millions of dollars)		
Department	Budget Authority	Outlays
Interior	9,705	9,428
<i>National Park Service</i>	2,396	2,356
<i>Bureau of Indian Affairs</i>	2,270	2,198
<i>Bureau of Land Management</i>	1,888	1,912
<i>United States Fish & Wildlife Service</i>	1,395	1,202
<i>United States Geological Survey</i>	928	914
<i>Other Interior</i>	828	846
Agriculture (Forest Service)	4,147	4,200
Energy	1,969	1,824
HHS (Indian Health Service)	2,901	2,832
Other	1,008	1,012

RESCISSIONS AND ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS

The bill contains \$44 million in rescissions of previously enacted BA. The rescissions are from the National Park Service's Land and Water Conservation Fund contract authority (\$30 million), and the Smithsonian Institution's salary and expenses (\$14 million). The bill also contains an

advance appropriation of \$36 million for payments under the Elk Hills School Lands Fund settlement agreement; the advance appropriation is included in the list of permissible advance appropriations under section 301 of the House budget resolution.

DISCUSSION

Overall, the bill is \$775 million in BA higher than the President's request due primarily to the following:

- An Interior Department increase of \$310 million, due to increases in Fish and Wildlife (\$112 million); the Bureau of Land Management (\$77 million); the United States Geological Survey (\$61 million); the National Park Service (\$41 million); the Bureau of Indian Affairs

(\$25 million); the Office of Surface Mining Reclamation (\$11 million); and other small increases (\$2 million). These increases were offset by reductions in the Office of Special Trustee (\$10 million); and Department Management (\$9 million).

- An additional \$201 million for the Agriculture Department (Forest Service) for wildland fire

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management (\$145 million); capital improvement (\$21 million); land acquisition (\$16 million); and other small increases (\$19 million).

- An Energy Department increase of \$175 million due to increases in fossil energy research and development and clean coal technology (\$125 million); energy conservation (\$83 million); and other small increases (\$3 million). These increases were offset by the elimination of the President’s proposal to end the advance appropriation for the Elk Hills School Lands Fund and fund it in the current year (\$36 million).
- An additional \$85 million for the Indian Health Service in the Department of Health and Human Services.

The full Appropriations Committee approved an amendment increasing conservation funds in the bill by \$60 million, bringing the total to approximately \$1.44 billion, the same

as the authorized level. To accomplish this, the committee transferred \$30 million each from the allocations to the Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, and Judiciary, and the Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies, to boost the overall Interior allocation. Under the fiscal year 2001 Interior Appropriations Conference Agreement, \$1.92 billion was set aside for fiscal year 2003 for conservation activities. Of this amount, \$1.44 billion was to be used for programs funded out of this legislation with the remainder allocated for specific Department of Commerce activities.

The Appropriations Committee decided not to fund the President’s Cooperative Conservation Initiative, which is designed to help private and public entities leverage non-Federal funding for improvements on public lands and the recovery of threatened species. Instead, the Committee opted for increasing funds for several other existing programs designed to encourage similar cooperative efforts.